

Welcome to the First Universalist Church of Rochester!

Our church is funded primarily through the pledges of our members and friends. We conduct an annual stewardship campaign, asking for a financial commitment from each member or friend of the congregation. This helps us to plan our budget for the fiscal year.

► *Why pledge? Why not just put money in the collection plate each week?*

Plate offerings are welcome and appreciated! However, pledges help us to plan ahead and make long-term commitments. So, for example, a pledge of \$250 helps us more than \$5/week in the collection basket, because we can use that pledge to plan and to budget. Pledges provide about 75% of the funds needed to run the church, while plate offerings account for about 2–3%. Pledges are critical to the church's ability to operate.

► *How do I decide how much to pledge?*

Our members are diverse in their economic circumstances, and so are their pledges. In a recent year, annual pledges ranged from \$100 to \$15,000. The average pledge is around \$2,000. We suggest calculating your pledge as a percentage of your income, considering the level of commitment to the church as well as your family's circumstances. You'll find a giving guide on the back of the pledge card.

► *How do I pay?*

When you make a pledge, you pay during the course of the following fiscal year, July 1–June 30. Most of us spread our payments out to weekly or monthly installments. A \$500 pledge amounts to \$10 weekly, for example.

Most of us pay by check, payable to First Universalist Church, with “pledge” written in the memo line. Checks can be mailed, sent automatically from your bank (ACH), or dropped into the basket on Sunday. If you pay with cash, please use a sealed envelope with your name and “Pledge” written clearly on it. You may also pay your pledge online at uuroc.org. Our collector keeps track of your pledge payments and sends periodic statements for your records and for tax purposes.

► *What if I make a pledge, and then lose my job next year?*

Your pledge is simply your plan. If you make a pledge and then your circumstances change, you can change your plan. So, for example, if you make a generous pledge and then lose your

job, you can let us know that you won't be able to fulfill your pledge. Conversely, if you win the lottery, you can adjust your pledge accordingly! Your pledge is not a contract.

► *How confidential is my pledge?*

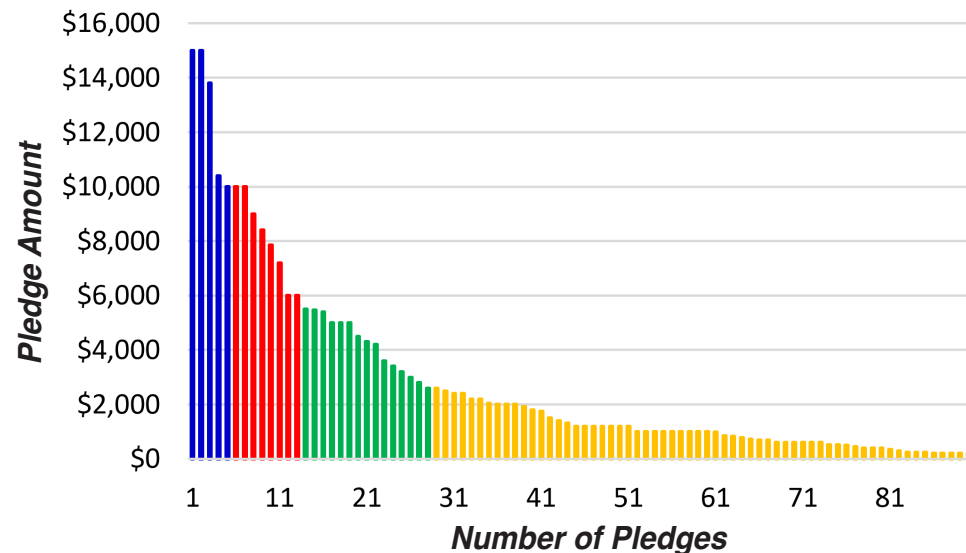
Pledges are absolutely private. Only the collector and the minister have access to pledge amounts.

► *I'm ready! How do I make my pledge?*

Fill out your pledge card, and return it to us in person, to the church office, or by mail. During the stewardship campaign, you can pledge online at uuroc.org.

Thank you for being a part of our beloved community!

2024–2025 Pledges by Quartile



Each color represents pledges that make up a quarter (quartile) of the church's annual pledge income. Pledges of ALL amounts are an important sign of commitment to the church!

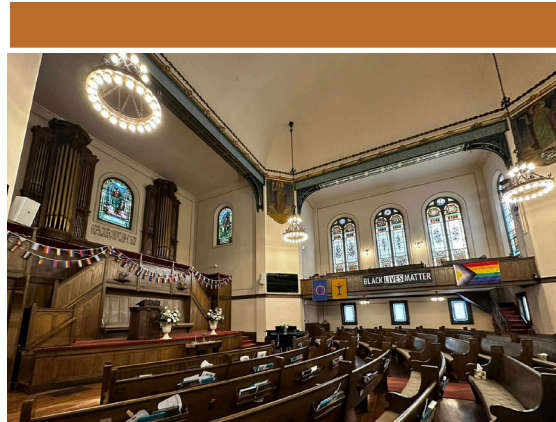


Message from the Minister

Rev. Lane-Mairead Campbell

When we pledge to First Universalist, we are making good on a promise. A promise kept by our ancestors to ensure that this church would be here when we arrived. A promise we make to one another that those who come here seeking support and spiritual nourishment will find it available. A promise to future generations that Unitarian Universalism will always be a part of the landscape of this city and the fabric of our community. This is what it means to be stewards to this community—it is about keeping the hope and the promise of Unitarian Universalism alive.

First Universalist will always be in need of stewardship—of people who care for one another, or people who care for this historic place, of people whose generosity makes even more generosity possible. And we will be in need of your support financially to ensure that this place can remain the welcoming beacon of justice that our city needs in downtown Rochester, to ensure that people seeking community have a place to go, to ensure that those who want to explore theologically in an open setting can come here for years and years to come. Thank you for your promise to this congregation.



First Universalist Church of Rochester

150 Clinton Avenue South • Rochester, NY 14604



Stewardship at First Universalist

Supporting Our Mission—

To nurture the spirit and serve the community

First Universalist Church
of Rochester